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KRON-NE Book

Questions and Answers about Missouri State Government

distributed by
Missouri's Ombudsman
Lieutenant Governor Kenneth J. Rothman



Dear Fellow Missourian,

The Know-Me Book is intended to familiarize residents of Missouri with the government and laws that affect our daily lives. If you have a question not answered in this book, or if you have a problem concerning a state agency, please call us at (314) 751-2421 or write:

Lieutenant Governor Kenneth J. Rothman
Missouri Ombudsman
P.O. Box 563
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Rothman
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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AUTOMOBILES

Q. What do I need as a new resident to operate a car in Missouri?

A. If you are planning to own and drive your car, you need a Missouri Certificate of Title, Missouri license plates and a Missouri driver's license.

Q. What is the procedure for getting a Missouri title for a new resident?

A. To have your car registered in Missouri, take the title issued by another state and \$1 to a Department of Revenue Motor Vehicle Registration office or fee office and complete the appropriate forms. You must have a permanent address in the state to apply and must register your car within 30 days of your move to Missouri.

If your title is held by a lienholder in another state, the title must be sent to Missouri. You should either request the lienholder in writing to send the title to the local Motor Vehicle Registration office or go to a local office and ask the Department of Revenue to make the same request. Your new title will be sent in the mail to your address, but if there is a lien, the lienholder will receive it.

If you lived in a state that does not require automobile owners to have a title, you must have a notarized bill of sale and the last certificate of registration of the vehicle in that state.

Q. How do I obtain new license plates?

A. At the same office at which you applied for the title, present your receipt for the title, a vehicle inspection certificate and a personal property tax waiver. Vehicle inspection certificates are issued by an authorized state inspection station (most full-service gasoline stations and automobile repair shops). If your car meets state inspection regulations, the cost is \$4.50.

If you were not liable for county personal property tax from the previous year, you can obtain a tax waiver at the County Collector's office in the county in which you resided January 1 of that year.

If you paid Missouri personal property tax; you need a tax receipt.

With these items you can purchase license plates, which cost between \$9 and \$32, depending on your automobile's horsepower. By law you have 30 days from the time you become a resident to obtain license plates, which must be displayed on the front and rear of your car.

Q. Does Missouri have personalized license plates?

A. Yes, you can have a license plate that features up to six digits or letters providing it is not offensive. You need to send an application that can be obtained at any Department of Revenue office or fee office to the Department of Revenue, Box 100, Jefferson City, Missouri 65105. It costs \$12 in addition to the cost of the license plates.

Q. Where are the Motor Vehicle Registration offices?

A. The Missouri Department of Revenue operates 12 branch offices in large cities and a central office in Jefferson City. There are also 150 fee offices in which a private citizen or organization is appointed by the department to sell titles and license plates for a regulated fee.

Because a fee office is not always open 40 hours a week, it is important to check its hours of operation. The phone number is usually listed under Government-State of Missouri, License Offices, in the phone book.

Q. How do I obtain a driver's license?

A. The driver's license test consists of written and practical sections. You must answer 15 of 20 questions correctly on the written section and receive no more than 30 deduction points on the practical.

You should bring proof of your age such as birth certificate or an out-of-state driver's license. Your Missouri license will contain your address and picture. The license costs \$3 if obtained at a state office, and \$4 if obtained from one of the fee offices.

Q. Where are the tests conducted?

A. The Missouri Highway Patrol operates testing sites in 112 of the 114 counties in the state and St. Louis City. Check Government-State of Missouri in the phone book or call the local police department regarding the testing site in your community.

Q. Is automobile insurance required to drive a car in Missouri?

A. No. There is, however, a financial responsibility law which requires proof of liability insurance or actual posting of securities with the state in the same amount in event of an accident involving more than \$500 damage. Missouri does not have a no-fault insurance law.

If your driver's license is suspended in another state because of unsatisfied judgments on your driving record, you must first settle these judgments before you receive a Missouri driver's license.

Q. Where can I get a driver's manual or more information?

A. Any Department of Revenue office or fee office can give you information. You can also write the Department of Revenue, Jefferson City, Missouri 65105 or call 1-314-751-4509.

BOATS

Q. Do I have to register my boat in Missouri?

A. Yes, if your boat is more than 12 feet in length or is powered by a motor. You should surrender your out-of-state title and purchase a Missouri title (\$1) at any Department of Revenue office or at some fee offices. You need a previous title or proof of purchase to get a Missouri title.

CONSUMER INFORMATION

Q. Who can I contact to make a consumer complaint?

A. To report misrepresentation of goods or services or possible fraud. Missouri's Attorney General operates a toll-free hotline, 1-800-392-8222, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., weekdays. You can also write the Attorney General at the Supreme Court Building, Box 899, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

Consumer complaints not involving misrepresentation are handled by the Consumer Information Center of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Regulation and Licensing. You can write them at 505 Missouri Boulevard, Box 1157, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, or call 1-314-751-4962 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., weekdays.

The Public Service Commission offers a toll-free number, 1-800-392-4211, for complaints about Missouri utility companies excluding municipal utilities and cooperatives. The phone is answered 8:00 a.m. to noon, and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., weekdays. You can also write Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

The Division of Insurance operates a Consumer Services unit that seeks to determine that policyholder claims are promptly acted upon, that rates are reasonable and not discriminatory and that insurance firms are financially solvent. To contact the division, call 1-314-751-4126 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., weekdays or write 515 East High Street, Box 690, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. In Kansas City, you can call the division's office at 1-816-274-6381 and in St. Louis call 1-314-427-6350.

The Ombudsman—Office of Citizen Complaints and Information also may be able to help. Call 1-314-751-2421 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., weekdays or write Box 563, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

EDUCATION

Q. How do I know which public school my children should attend?

A. Contact the local school district listed in the phone book. In St. Louis City call 1-314-231-3720, in

St. Louis County call 1-314-872-8282 and in Kansas City call 1-816-474-9438.

Q. How can I obtain information about Missouri colleges and universities?

A. The Missouri Department of Higher Education provides a list of public and private community colleges, state colleges and universities. To get the list write the department at 600 Monroe, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, or call 1-314-751-2361. The University of Missouri includes four campuses: St. Louis, Kansas City, Rolla and Columbia. The other state universities are Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Northeast Missouri State University in Kirksville, Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau and Lincoln University in Jefferson City. The state colleges are: Missouri Southern State College in Joplin, Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph and Harris-Stowe College in St. Louis City.

Q. What are the residency requirements for students to be qualified for in-state tuition?

A. Under guidelines established by the Missouri Coordinating Board of Higher Education, a student or his/her parents must have physically resided in the state for one year. A major exception would be if a state in which the student formerly resided immediately revoked his residency status as it relates to higher education institutions.

Q. Are there special schools for mentally and physically handicapped students?

A. Yes, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education operates schools for the handicapped. Contact the department at Box 480, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 or call 1-314-751-4427.

ELDERLY

Q. What organization provides services for the elderly?

A. In Missouri there are 12 area agencies on aging, which are federally funded, not-for-profit organizations that offer in-home services, transportation, legal services, nutritional information, meals and other programs. Each area maintains senior citizen centers which are the focal point of activities.

For more information contact the Division of Aging at the Broadway Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 or call 1-314-751-2712.

Q. Is there a transportation service for the elderly?

A. Contact the Older Adults Transportation Service (OATS) for information about subsidies for the elderly, except in Southeast Missouri, where the services are provided by the Southeast Missouri Transportation Service. To learn more, write the state office at 601 Business Loop 70 West, Terrace Level Parkade Plaza, Columbia, Missouri 65201 (1-314-443-4516), or the Southeast Missouri Transportation, Inc., 131 West Main Street, Fredericktown, Missouri 63645 (1-314-783-5505).

If you need free transportation, the Missouri Division of Family Services office in your county will work with you (see Social Services).

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Q. How many U.S. Congressmen are elected in Missouri?

A. In addition to two U.S. Senators who serve six-year terms, Missouri has nine members of Congress who serve two-year terms.

Q. Which state government officials are elected?

A. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer and

Attorney General are elected to four-year terms and serve in the State Capitol.

All officials, except the State Auditor, are elected during Presidential election years. The State Auditor is chosen two years after the Presidential election.

By the Missouri Constitution, the Governor and the State Treasurer are limited to 2 four-year terms. The other officials have no limitation on re-election.

The Governor appoints the directors of the 14 state departments and certain boards and commissions with advice and consent of the Missouri Senate.

Q. How is the Missouri legislature comprised?

A. There are 163 State Representatives elected every two years to the House of Representatives. The Missouri Senate is composed of 34 Senators serving four-year terms, one-half of whom are elected every two years. All elections are held during even-numbered years.

Q. How do I know which legislators represent me?

A. For information about Missouri House and Senate Districts, contact the local Board of Election or the County Clerk. The General Assembly is in session January to April 30th in even-numbered years and from January to June 15th in odd-numbered years. You may write Legislators at the State Capitol, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 or call 1-314-751-2151.

Q. What officials run local governments?

A. In 112 of Missouri's 114 counties, a three-member county court administers the county business. The presiding judge, who is elected to a four-year term, represents all county voters, while the two district judges, elected every two years, represent different sections of the county. The term "judge" is a misnomer because judges do not preside over a court of law, but an administrative court.

St. Louis County and Jackson County are each governed by their own home rule charter. Elections are held every four years during the "off-year".

In St. Louis City, the mayor and board of aldermen lead city government. In Kansas City, the mayor and city council have the responsibility of administering government with the assistance of an appointed city manager. The mayors and council members are elected to four-year terms in March or April of odd-numbered years.

Most other Missouri cities have a government similar to either Kansas City or St. Louis.

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

Q. What are the requirements for voting in Missouri?

A. You must be at least 18 years of age and not have committed a felony or have been judged mentally incompetent to vote. You must register in the county in which you reside the fourth Wednesday (about 28 days) prior to the election in which you wish to vote. You have to provide your home and address, date and place of birth and other information.

Q. Where do I register?

A. By law, the County Clerk or the Board of Elections (in Kansas City, St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Jackson County and Clay County) must register voters. In addition, some counties delegate the authority to City Clerks to register voters.

Most phone books under Government-County list a phone number for voter registration or the County Clerk.

Q. When are elections held?

A. The general election is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years. The primary election is held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in August of even-numbered years.

Missouri has no Presidential primary and elects delegates to the Republican and Democrat national conventions through Congressional and state conventions.

Municipal elections are usually held the first Tuesday in April of each year, with primaries in March. There are sometimes special elections held in March, June and October.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Q. Who can I contact about job information?

A. The Missouri Division of Employment Security operates Job Service, a placement office whose service is available free of charge. Job Service matches employees and employers, provides counseling and testing and employment information.

For more information contact the nearest Job Service office listed in the phone book under Government-State.

Q. How do I apply for unemployment insurance?

A. The Employment Security office also handles claims for unemployment insurance. To receive compensation, you must file a written claim in person with Job Service, have been a covered, insured worker, be able to work each day and be actively seeking work.

After a claim is filed, you must wait one week. The amount of money you receive can be as much as \$105 a week up to 26 weeks. A claim must be filed each week in person or by mail to receive the compensation.

For more information, contact your nearest Employment Security office.

Q. If I am having a problem getting worker's compensation from my employer, can the state help?

A. Yes, a claim can be filed with the Division of Worker's Compensation for benefits under the worker's compensation law. The division advises

employees of their rights and will hold administrative hearings if the claim cannot be settled.

Even if the employer does not have worker's compensation insurance, he is still liable if he employs five or more persons a month.

Q. Does the Division of Worker's Compensation also help with Vocational Rehabilitation?

A. No, although they will refer you to the nearest Vocational Rehabilitation office (see Handicapped).

FIREARMS

Q. Do I have to register my gun in Missouri?

A. No, if you already own a gun that was bought in another state, you do not have to register it in Missouri.

Q. Do I have to have a permit to buy a handgun in Missouri?

A. Yes, if you purchase a handgun, you must first obtain a permit from the local county sheriff's office in Missouri. You must know the serial number of the handgun to apply for the permit. The minimum cost is \$.50, and varies from county to county. If you have no criminal charges on your record and receive the sheriff's approval, you will receive the permit.

HANDICAPPED

Q. What services are made available by the state to handicapped persons?

A. Several state agencies help the handicapped. The Division of Special Education in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education operates schools for the severely handicapped, state schools for the blind and deaf and sheltered workshops, which employ handicapped persons. To contact the

division write Box 840, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 or call 1-314-751-4427. You also can contact local public schools.

The department has a Division of Vocational Rehabilitation that helps physically and mentally disabled persons prepare for and find gainful employment. To be eligible, a person must have a disability that interferes with his ability to obtain or hold a job and have a reasonable chance of being able to work if the services are provided. Payment depends on economic need. For more information, contact the main office by writing 3523 North Ten Mile Drive, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 or calling 1-314-751-3251.

The division operates five Disability Determination offices, which determine eligibility to receive monthly Social Security payments for persons who cannot obtain gainful employment. Questions concerning disability determinations should be directed to the same address and phone number listed in the previous paragraph.

Information about employment opportunities may be obtained from the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. You may write the office at P.O. Box 1668, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 or call at 314-751-2600. The office also has a toll-free telephone number, 800-392-8249.

One of the best places to learn about programs in your county is the Missouri Division of Family Services office. For more information, see Social Services.

IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Q. If I don't drive, can I get a Missouri identification card?

A. Yes, whether you have a driver's license or not, a person can obtain an identification card at the nearest Department of Revenue office or fee office. You need a birth certificate or other proof of birth and \$1 to get a card.

LEGAL SERVICES AND SMALL CLAIMS COURT

Q. Who can I contact about getting legal assistance?

A. The Missouri Bar operates the Missouri Lawyer Referral, which is available to everyone in the state. There is a toll-free telephone number, 1-800-392-8777, which is answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The operator who answers will give you the name, address and telephone number of an attorney in your community with whom you can make an appointment for up to 30 minutes for a \$15 fee. There is no obligation on your part to pay for more than a half-hour session. Your problem will be discussed in confidence. Any arrangements for additional services must then be made between you and the attorney.

St. Louis, Kansas City and Springfield residents should contact their local bar association for lawyer referral services. In St. Louis call the Bar Association of Metro St. Louis at 1-314-421-6154, in Kansas City call the Kansas City Bar Association at 1-816-221-9472, and in Springfield contact the Greene County Bar Association at 1-417-831-2783.

There are also legal aid offices across the state that serve indigent persons involved in civil suits. The three regional offices are in St. Louis (1-314-533-7900), Kansas City (1-816-474-6750) and Caruthersville (1-314-333-4076). To find out if your area is served by one of the offices, contact them. The Greene County Legal Aid (1-417-862-0356) serves a 7-county area in Southwest Missouri. The Columbia Legal Aid office (1-314-443-8731) serves a smaller area than the others, but hopes to expand.

Q. What can I do if I want to take someone to court but do not want to pay lawyer's fees?

A. Go to Missouri Small Claims Court where a person, with or without a lawyer, can sue a company or another person for no more than \$500. There is a \$5 filing fee for a claim less than \$100, and a \$10 fee for a claim between \$100 and \$500, plus the cost of the court summons. The Small Claims Courts, which

can be found in every county, are part of the Circuit Court. For more information, contact the circuit clerk in your county.

LIFE: BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH

Q. Who registers birth certificate applications and where can I get a copy of one?

A. The hospital where the baby is delivered or the physician who delivers the child completes the birth certificate.

To get a copy of a birth certificate for a person born in Missouri, send \$1 with the full name of the child at birth, the date and place of birth, the father's name and the mother's maiden name. The only persons allowed to obtain a copy of another person's birth certificate are relatives or legal representatives of a person. To get a copy write the Missouri Division of Health, Vital Statistics, Box 570, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. There are also Vital Statistics offices in Kansas City, St. Louis and St. Louis County, where the cost of the certificate is \$2.

Q. What is the procedure for getting a marriage license?

A. The Recorder of Deeds in each county sells marriage licenses, which cost \$4 or more. You need to make application there. Most clergymen and judges are empowered to marry persons in Missouri.

If you or your prospective spouse are under 18 years old, consent is required from one parent.

Q. Who completes death certificates and where can I get a copy of one?

A. A coronor, medical examiner or licensed physician signs a death certificate. The funeral director is responsible for the recording of the death certificate and obtaining medical certification. The certificate cost and location of offices is the same as the information for birth certificates.

LIQUOR LAWS

Q. What is the legal drinking age in Missouri?

A. Liquor, wine and beer can only be purchased or possessed by persons 21 years of age or older. Usually a driver's license is sufficient proof of age (see Automobiles). You may want to obtain a state ID card (see Identification Card).

Q. Where and when can I purchase alcoholic beverages?

A. Only licensed retail establishments such as liquor stores, supermarkets and drugstores sell packaged liquor, wine and beer, Monday through Saturday, 6:00 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. On Sunday from 6:00 a.m. to 1:30 a.m., 3.2 percent beer can be purchased from any 3.2 beer-licensed store. Other alcoholic beverages by the drink and package can be purchased on Sunday only from 1:00 p.m. to midnight at restaurants having a special permit. That permit is only issued to restaurants if more than 50 percent of their business comes from food sales.

OMBUDSMAN—OFFICE OF CITIZEN COMPLAINTS

Q. Who can I contact with a complaint or an inquiry concerning state government?

A. Lieutenant Governor Kenneth Rothman acts as the state's Ombudsman. The office handles every conceivable type of complaint relating to state agencies and is a useful informational source if you do not know who to contact with a question.

To contact the Ombudsman, write the Ombudsman, Lieutenant Governor Kenneth Rothman, Box 563, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 or call 1-314-751-2421. You can also visit the office, Suite 327, State Capitol, Jefferson City, Missouri from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., weekdays.

PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

Q. What Missouri professions are licensed?

A. The following are regulated by the Missouri Department of Consumer Affairs, Regulation and Licensing:

Accountants, architects, engineers and land surveyors, barbers, chiropractors, cosmetologists, dentists, embalmers and funeral directors, employment agencies, healing arts professionals (physicians, surgeons, speech pathologists, clinical audiologists, physical therapists), hearing aid dealers and fitters, nurses, optometrists, pharmacists, podiatrists, psychologists, real estate agents and veterinarians.

In order to be licensed by the state, a person must meet state requirements or pass an examination administered by the state, unless there are reciprocal agreements with other states. For more information about licensing, contact the Division of Professional Registration, 3523 North Ten Mile Drive, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 or call 1-314-751-2334.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Q. Who can I contact to get financial assistance or a government service?

A. There are three primary sources of government assistance: the Missouri Division of Family Services (DFS) in the Department of Social Services, Community Action Agencies and the Federal Social Security Administration.

Q. What assistance is provided by DFS?

A. DFS offers the following income-income-maintenance programs:

1. Medicaid
2. Food stamps
3. General Relief: basically for persons who are unemployable and are not eligible for other assistance
4. Aid to blind
5. Aid to Families with Dependent Children

6. Adult Supplemental Payments: for those persons who received welfare payments prior to 1973
7. Nursing home care

For more information about these programs and eligibility requirements contact the local DFS office, which is located in each county in the state. Check the phone book under Government-State for the nearest office.

A toll-free number, 1-800-392-1251, for questions about food stamps is maintained by DFS from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays.

Q. What services are offered by DFS and other Social Services divisions?

A. DFS offers these services:

1. Foster care
2. Adoption
3. Bureau of the Blind
4. Family Planning and Counseling
5. Big Brothers and Sisters
6. Child Abuse Referral and Counseling
7. Unmarried Parents Counseling
8. Day Care Referral and Licensing

The child abuse hotline, 1-800-392-3738, puts you in touch with DFS, which will investigate a potential child abuse problem within 24 hours.

Your call will be kept confidential. The hotline is answered 24 hours a day.

The Division of Veterans Affairs operates the Missouri Veterans Nursing Home in St. James, in addition to the Service to Veterans program. That program provides veterans and their dependents with information and assistance about federal aid. For more information call 1-314-751-3343 or write Drawer 147, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

Q. What other kinds of assistance are available?

A. The Community Action agencies, which are nonprofit federal and state-funded agencies, can help possibly with:

1. Relief from high utility bills

2. Rent subsidies and housing
3. Emergency medical care
4. Assistance with food orders and Prescription drugs
5. Transportation
6. Winterization and rehabilitation of homes
7. Head Start programs
8. Family planning
9. Legal aid
10. Foster grant parent programs
11. Nutrition programs
12. Employment opportunities

The Social Security office handles Supplemental Security Income (persons over 65, blind or disabled), Disability, Retirement and Survivors benefits and Medicare.

For more information call their toll-free numbers, 1-800-892-7600 for the western half of the state, and 1-800-392-9000 in the eastern half. For questions about Medicare call 1-800-392-3070 for residents of the eastern half of the state, and 1-800-892-5900 for the western half of the state.

A program of interest to women with small children is Women, Infants and Children (WIC) offered by the Division of Health. It provides free, specially designed nutritious meals for pregnant women, women with children under six months old, women who are breast feeding, and infants and children under 5 years of age. To determine if you qualify for the program, contact your local health department.

TAXES

Q. Does Missouri have a state income tax?

A. Yes, just like the federal government, the Missouri Department of Revenue collects an income tax each year from Missouri residents and nonresidents who earn \$600 or more in Missouri.

If you have not paid state income taxes in Missouri during the previous year, you probably will

not receive income tax forms in the mail. To obtain the tax forms and other information, contact a Department of Revenue branch office or call the Jefferson City office at 1-314-751-4388 or write the Division of Taxation, Department of Revenue, Box 329, Jefferson City, Missouri 65105. Post offices and many banks also have income tax forms.

Q. Is there a property tax?

A. Yes, by law real property is assessed 33 1/3 percent of its true value as of January 1. Then depending on the specific locality, the local tax rate is applied. In St. Louis County alone, there are more than 453 different levies. The taxes are used for local schools, libraries, municipal and county governments and general local tax revenue funds.

If you build a new house, you will be notified by the County Assessor between January 1 and May 15 of the assessed value of your property. If you think the assessment is incorrect, you have the right to appeal the decision to the Board of equalization. Contact the local assessor or your Ombudsman for more information.

If you buy a house that has already been assessed, probably the assessor will adjust the assessment according to your purchase price. To find out what your assessed value is, contact the assessor. If your assessment is increased, he will notify you and thereafter you can appeal to the Board of Equalization, if you find the value assessed incorrectly.

Q. What is the sales tax in Missouri?

A. The state sales tax is at least 3 1/8 percent on most items in the state. Each municipality is allowed to levy an additional tax up to 1 percent. Counties also have the authority to levy a 1/2 cent sales tax if the voters approve.

In addition, St. Louis City, St. Louis County and Kansas City levy a 1/2 percent tax to fund the Bi-State Development Agency bus line and the Kansas City Transport Authority bus lines.

Q. Is there a tax on cigarettes?

A. Yes, the state tax on a regular size pack of cigarettes is nine cents. There are also local taxes.

Q. Is there a gasoline tax?

A. Yes, on gasoline used for motor vehicles, the state tax is seven cents per gallon. Other tax rates apply for such items as propane gas. For more information about these taxes, contact the Division of Taxation, Jefferson City, Missouri 65105 or call 1-314-751-2611.

Q. Is there an inheritance tax?

A. Yes, depending on your relationship to the deceased, you may have to pay an inheritance tax. For more information, contact the Division of Taxation, Jefferson City, Missouri 65105 or call 1-314-751-2694.

Q. Is there an earnings tax?

A. In St. Louis City and Kansas City, residents and persons who earn wages in those cities, must pay a 1 percent tax on earned income. Contact the city tax office for more information.

TOURISM

Q. How can I find out about traveling in Missouri?

A. The Division of Tourism provides free travel information. You can write them at Box 1055, 308 East High Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 or call 1-314-751-4133.

The division operates three other tourism offices at Highway 270 and Riverview Drive in St. Louis (1-314-869-7100), on Interstate 44, west of Joplin (1-417-781-4775), and at the Marston Rest Area, New Madrid in southeast Missouri on Interstate 55 (1-314-643-2654).

The division operates a toll-free phone, 1-800-392-0711, 24 hours a day, which supplies information about gasoline availability in Missouri.

Q. Do Kansas City and St. Louis have tourism bureaus?

A. Yes, their address and phone numbers are:

Convention and Visitor's Bureau
City Center Square
1100 Main, Suite 2550
Kansas City, Missouri 64105
1-816-221-5242

Convention and Visitor's Bureau
500 N. Broadway, Suite 1545
St. Louis, Missouri 63102
1-314-421-1023

Many cities have a Chamber of Commerce that provides tourism information about their town.

Q. Where can I get a highway map?

A. Most tourist bureaus and the Missouri Highway Department offices have an ample supply. You can also contact the Missouri State Highway Commission, which prints the maps, at Box 270, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 or call 1-314-751-2840.

VOLUNTEERING

Q. Who can I contact about joining a volunteer group?

A. The Missouri Volunteer program, conducted by Lieutenant Governor Kenneth Rothman, encourages volunteerism across the state. If you need to find out about volunteerism, just call 1-314-751-2781 or write Missouri's Volunteer Coordinator, Lieutenant Governor Kenneth Rothman, Box 563, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

There are also seven Voluntary Action Centers in the State, Volunteers can be placed according to their needs and interests. They are located in St. Louis, Kansas City, Columbia, Cape Girardeau, Maryville, Springfield and St. Joseph. Check the phone book for their phone numbers.



